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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/874,283	06/06/2001	Akira Kudo	1359.1049	6300

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EXAMINER	
NGUYEN, VAN H	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2126	

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/874,283	KUDO ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	VAN H NGUYEN	2126

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *17 May 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-22* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-22* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-22 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Banavar et al.** (U.S. 6, 425,016).

4. The Banavar reference was cited by the Examiner in the previous office action.

5. **As to claim 9,** Banavar teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a computer-readable recording medium storing a collaboration program between information processing systems that allows a computer to execute processing of allowing a plurality of information processing means including information processing means based on different architectures to collaborate with each other (see the abstract), the program allowing a computer to execute:

processing of generating role objects respectively corresponding to the information processing means that are allowed to collaborate with each other (col.4, lines 13-22; col.5, lines 50-66; and col.12, lines 24-28); and

processing of referring to collaboration information among the plurality of information processing means and generating an object for collaboration between the role objects (col.7, lines 32-55) .

While Banavar teaches generating an object. Bladow does not specifically use the term "a relating object."

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have applied the teachings of Banavar to include a relating object because Bladow's teachings would have provided the capability for monitoring the state of the collaboration.

The fact that Banavar's teachings "a collaboration manager, which creates model objects, executes transactions, and creates association objects" (col.2, lines 5-14) and purpose of creating association objects in Banavar suggests "a relating object. "

6. **As to claim 1,** the rejection of claim 9 above is incorporated herein in full. Additionally, Banavar further teaches collaboration information storage means for storing collaboration information among the plurality of information processing means (col.7, lines 57-67).

7. **As to claim 2,** Banavar teaches the collaboration information contains timing information on timing of passing information between the information processing means (col.4, lines 53-65).

8. **As to claim 3,** Banavar teaches the timing information is selected from a plurality of kinds of communication methods including real communication, delayed batch communication, and batch communication (fig.13A and associated text).

9. **As to claim 4,** the rejection of claim 9 above is incorporated herein in full. Additionally, Banavar further teaches processing of an information identification object generating means for generating an information identification object that determines information to be stored in a storage apparatus of each information processing means and storing collaboration information among the plurality of information processing means (col.5, lines 50-54).

10. **As to claims 5-6,** they include the same subject matters as in claims 2-3 above, and are similarly rejected under the same rationale.

11. **As to claim 7,** the rejection of claim 9 above is incorporated herein in full. Additionally, Banavar further teaches storing collaboration information among the plurality of information processing means (col.7, lines 57-67).

12. **As to claim 8,** the rejection of claim 9 above is incorporated herein in full. Additionally, Banavar further teaches processing of an information identification object generating means for generating an information identification object that determines information to be stored in a storage apparatus of each information processing means and collaboration information means for storing collaboration information among the plurality of information processing means (col.5, lines 50-54).

13. **As to claim 10,** the rejection of claim 9 above is incorporated herein in full. Additionally, Banavar further teaches processing of generating an information identification object that determines information to be stored in a storage apparatus of each information processing means (col.5, lines 50-54).

14. **As to claim 11,** the rejection of claim 9 above is incorporated herein in full. Additionally, Banavar further teaches storing collaboration information among the plurality of information processors (col.7, lines 57-67).

15. **As to claims 12-13,** they include the same subject matters as in claims 2-3 above, and are similarly rejected under the same rationale.

16. **As to claim 14,** the rejection of claim 9 above is incorporated herein in full. Additionally, Banavar further teaches processing of generating an information identification object that determines information to be stored in each of the plurality of information processors and storing collaboration information among the plurality of information processors (col.5, lines 50-54).

17. **As to claims 15-16,** they include the same subject matters as in claims 2-3 above, and are similarly rejected under the same rationale.

18. **As to claim 17,** the rejection of claim 9 above is incorporated herein in full. Additionally, Banavar further teaches storing collaboration information among the plurality of information processors (col.7, lines 57-67).

19. **As to claims 18-19,** they include the same subject matters as in claims 2-3 above, and are similarly rejected under the same rationale.

20. **As to claim 20,** the rejection of claim 9 above is incorporated herein in full. Additionally, Banavar further teaches processing of generating an information identification object that determines information to be stored in each of the plurality of information processors and storing collaboration information among the plurality of information processors (col.5, lines 50-54).

21. **As to claims 21-22,** they include the same subject matters as in claims 2-3 above, and are similarly rejected under the same rationale.

Response to Arguments

22. Applicant's arguments filed May 17, 2004 with respect to claims 1-22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

23. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VAN H. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (703) 306 -5971. **After mid-October, 2004, the examiner can be reached at (571) 272-3765.** The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30AM - 6:00PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternative Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng-Ai An can be reached on (703) 305-9678.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

VHN

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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100